

2011 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Suicide Report

A Health Risk Behavior Comparison of Montana High School Students
Based on Attempted Suicide



~February 2013~

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program
Health Enhancement and Safety Division



opi.mt.gov

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey +

The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction every two years to students in grades 7 through 12. The purpose of the survey is to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that not only influence youth health, but also put youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence. While all schools in Montana can participate in the survey on a volunteer basis, approximately 50 high schools are randomly selected to be included to provide the Montana statewide data to be used in other national YRBS reports.

The 2011 YRBS was conducted in February 2011. Schools administering the survey were provided with detailed written instructions on conducting a random survey in their schools. To encourage accurate responses to sensitive questions, a strict protocol was implemented to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students. The questionnaire was designed without skip patterns to ensure survey completion by students in a similar period of time.

Survey Validity, Limitations and Results +

Data used in this report from the 2011 YRBS are based on a random survey of Montana high school students. The weighted results contained in this report can be used to make inferences about the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 in all schools in Montana. However, users should be careful in using the data since respondents in self-reported surveys may have a tendency to underreport behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal (alcohol consumption, drug use, seat belt nonuse, etc.) and overreport behaviors that are socially desirable (amount of exercise, etc.).

For the purpose of this report, youth that are classified as having attempted suicide are those Montana youth in 2011 that reported attempting suicide one or more times during the 12 months prior to taking the YRBS." Twenty-three separate risk behaviors were queried for association with the attempted suicide question. These findings are presented in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

Background +

According to the 2011 YRBS, seven percent of Montana high school students reported attempting suicide during the past 12 months. Six percent of males and seven percent of females had attempted suicide. Among Montana high school students who had attempted suicide, eight percent were ninth graders, six percent were tenth graders, seven percent were eleventh graders and five percent were twelfth grade students.

For more on the YRBS go to www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs.

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Findings +

Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are more likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Never or rarely worn a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else (21% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Never or rarely worn a seat belt when driving a car (21% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 12% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (40% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 25% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Driven a car during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol (19% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not gone to school during the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (18% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 3% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon (e.g., gun, knife or club) on school property during the past 12 months (27% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months (30% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 8% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (31% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 8% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (50% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 25% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (43% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the past 12 months (48% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 27% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing usual activities during the past 12 months (73% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 22% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (81% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (42% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank alcohol during the past 30 days (61% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 37% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had five or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (47% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 24% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (36% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 20% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription during their lifetime (47% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 16% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (69% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 46% of students who had not attempted suicide).

Continued

Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are more likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their lifetime (31% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).

Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are less likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Eaten breakfast daily during the past seven days (24% of students who had attempted suicide compared to 41% of students who had not attempted suicide).

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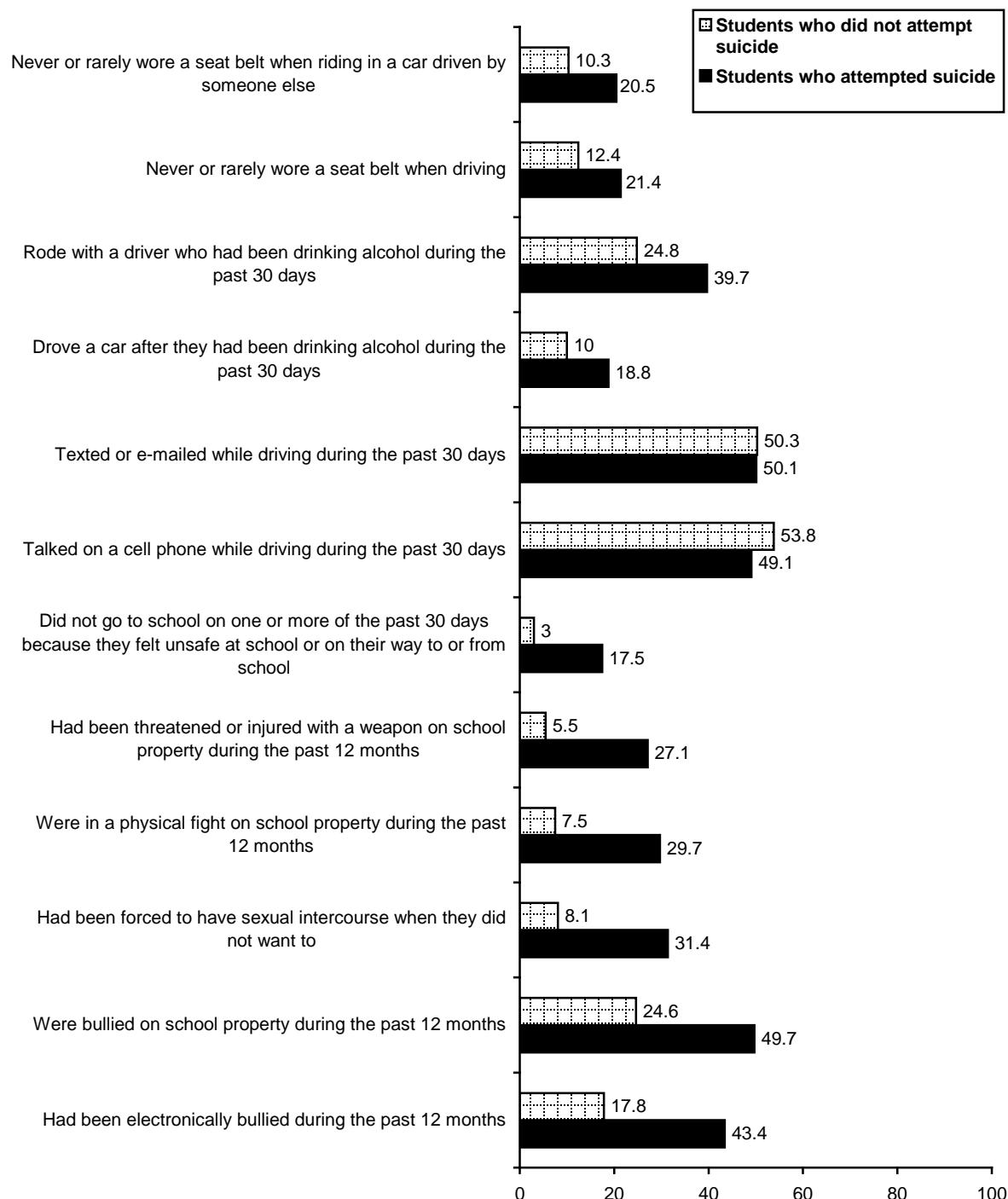
Health Risk Behavior	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	20.5% (15.3-25.7)	10.3% (8.8-11.9)
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	21.4% (14.8-27.9)	12.4% (10.4-14.5)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	39.7% (32.9-46.4)	24.8% (22.9-26.6)
Drove a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol	18.8% (14.4-23.2)	10.0% (8.7-11.2)
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	50.1% (41.4-58.9)	50.3% (47.0-53.7)
Talked on a cell phone while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	49.1% (40.6-57.6)	53.8% (50.5-57.1)
Did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school	17.5% (12.0-22.9)	3.0% (2.4-3.6)
Had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	27.1% (19.7-34.6)	5.5% (4.8-6.3)
Were in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months	29.7% (24.3-35.0)	7.5% (6.5-8.5)
Had been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	31.4% (24.7-38.1)	8.1% (7.0-9.3)
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	49.7% (42.0-57.5)	24.6% (22.6-26.6)
Had been electronically bullied during the past 12 months	43.4% (36.7-49.9)	17.8% (16.0-19.6)
Had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the past 12 months	48.0% (41.0-55.0)	27.0% (24.8-29.4)

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Health Risk Behavior	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Felt sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row during the past 12 months	72.8% (67.3-78.3)	22.3% (20.3-24.2)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	80.5% (74.4-86.6)	10.9% (9.7-12.1)
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (current smoker)	41.7% (33.4-49.9)	14.2% (12.2-16.2)
Drank alcohol during the past 30 days	61.2% (53.3-69.0)	36.6% (34.5-38.7)
Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (binge drink)	46.5% (40.4-52.5)	23.8% (22.1-25.6)
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	36.4% (29.3-43.5)	19.9% (17.1-22.7)
Had taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription during their lifetime	47.0% (40.4-53.6)	16.4% (14.5-18.2)
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	69.1% (63.9-74.3)	46.0% (42.9-49.0)
Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people during their lifetime	30.9% (24.6-37.2)	13.5% (11.4-15.7)
Ate breakfast daily during the past 7 days	24.2% (18.1-30.2)	41.2% (39.1-43.3)

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Percentage of students by selected risk behavior



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Percentage of students by selected risk behavior

